

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates February 29, 2012

This publication updates you on major Department initiatives including policy changes and program updates. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues and contact the designated staff person if you would like more information.

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Breaking News

Adult Medicaid Buy-In Program Set for March 1 Start

The Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working Adults with Disabilities (Adult Medicaid Buy-In) is set to be implemented March 1, 2012. The Adult Medicaid Buy-In will allow working adults with disabilities who earn too much income or have too many resources to qualify for regular Medicaid to purchase or "buy-in" to obtain coverage. The Adult Medicaid Buy-In is part of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act funded by the Hospital Provider Fee.

Adult Medicaid Buy-In is designed for applicants who are:

- Working adults who are at least 16 but less than 65 years of age
- Determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA), or the state Medicaid disability determination vendor to be a person with a disability.
- Earning wages at or below 450% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

To learn more about the program, click <u>here</u> or contact <u>Kimberley Smith</u> at 303-866-3991 or <u>Martha Beavers</u> at 303-866-3998.

ACA Implementation: Participate in the Process

The Department is identifying changes to systems and practices to prepare for provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA gives States the opportunity to update eligibility systems with the enhanced funding that is available until 2015.

The Department is gathering stakeholder ideas to make these changes the most efficient and effective for Coloradans. Background about this planning process is available on the Department's <u>planning Web page</u>. This resource center includes timelines, resources and ideas. Documents pertaining specifically to the ideas will be posted every Friday on the ideas section of the <u>Web site</u>. The first sets of documents were posted on Friday, February 24. The Department is currently seeking input on client correspondence, communication and the enterprise document management system. The Department will accept feedback for seven (7) days after the initial posting of the idea. Please check <u>this Web site weekly</u> to participate in this process.

For more information contact Megan Wood at 303-866-5925.

ACC Advisory Committee Call for Applicants

Based on stakeholder feedback, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing has decided to add two new seats to the <u>Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Program Improvement Advisory Committee</u>, one seat will represent dually eligible individuals and one seat will represent adults without dependent children. These committee members act as liaisons between the ACC Program Improvement Advisory Committee and the AwDC Advisory Committee and Dual Eligibles Stakeholder Groups, respectively. The Department plans to enroll both dually eligible individuals and adults without dependent children into the ACC program. Application forms are due on March 15, 2012.

If you have any questions or would like an application form, please contact <u>Kathryn Jantz</u> at 303-866-5972.

Improving Long-Term Services and Supports Delivery System

LTC Advisory Committee Strategic Planning

The Long-Term Care Advisory Committee (LTCAC) is a public advisory group which discusses researches and advises the Department on recommended Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) policies and processes.

LTCAC will conduct a strategic planning retreat on Tuesday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., at the Daniels Fund Building, 101 Monroe Street in Denver. This retreat and all LTCAC meetings are open to the public.

The purpose of the March planning retreat is for the LTCAC to establish agreement on strategic priorities for the future of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in Colorado. The Department will provide professional facilitation for the process. Members of the public can contact LTCAC members in advance of the March 6 meeting, or at any time, to provide input or to ask questions.

The LTCAC meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is April 3, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., at 225 E. 16th Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room, in Denver. The LTCAC draft strategic plan will be available for public comment at the April meeting.

For further information, please contact LTCAC members or John Barry or at (303) 866-3173.

Dual Eligibility Planning Meetings

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center awarded the Department <u>a contract</u> to develop new ways to better coordinate care for clients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid programs. This contract will allow the Department to research options and create a plan for meeting the unique needs of these dual eligible clients.

The Department is organizing workgroups on key issues such as coordination of care and is looking for input from clients, their families, community organizations and other stakeholders. The workgroups will develop the structure and implementation process for the demonstration proposal which is due to CMS in May 2012.

The next meeting is will be March 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Denver Newspaper Agency Auditorium, located at The Denver Post, 101 West Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80202. Meetings are held monthly and workgroups are open to everyone.

If you are interested in participating, please contact <u>Teri Bolinger</u> at 303-866-2412.If you require special accommodations, please notify <u>Laura Pionke</u> at 303-866-3980 at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

Healthy Living

Demographic Profile: Did you know?

60% of the people on Medicaid in Colorado are children under age 20

58% are women

18% are classified as aged and disabled

85% live in urban settings

15% speak Spanish at home

The Department has developed a <u>demographic profile</u> of Colorado residents who participate in the Medicaid program. It is a useful guide to understanding some of the basic characteristics of our population.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Waugh at 303-866-2029.

Focus on Winnable Battles: Improving Children's Oral Health in Colorado HCPF continues to focus on improving children's oral health as part of Colorado's "Ten Winnable Battles" over the next ten years. Oral health is one of the Department's Healthy Living Initiatives. The Department's efforts to encourage preventive services are showing promising results. Some of the prevention services were mentioned in a recent Denver Post article on the state of oral health among all Colorado children.

In FY 2009-10, the Department saw a 9 percent increase in children who received preventive dental services. In 2011, the Department sent letters to parents of kids who hadn't been to the dentist in a year, reminding them of the need for a dental visit. The response showed a statistically significant number of parents who received the letter took their child to the dentist compared to a group of parents who did not receive the letter. The Department will be sending two letters this year in hopes improving results.

<u>Click here</u> for a press release on the Winnable Battles. For more information about Healthy Living Initiatives, please contact <u>Lisa Waugh</u> at 303-866-2029.

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new <u>Web site</u> and our job openings.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

Enrollment

In January 2012 there were 620,542 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 79,362 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Budget Web page.